

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 CU-05 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /042 W
----- 041275

R 271220Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR AF/C

USIA FOR IAA, IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF FOREMAN SEPT. 25
PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: KINSHASA 8214

1. USIS OFFICER INFORMED BY TOM JOHNSON OF N.Y.
TIMES THAT SEVERAL HOURS FOLLOWING FOREMAN SEPT. 25
PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL) FOREMAN AND DON KING CALLED
JOHNSON AND AP CORRESPONDENT VINOCUR INTO KING'S SUITE
AT HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL. WHILE KING SAT SILENTLY BY,
FOREMAN TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD, INDEED, SIGNED
CONTRACT TO FIGHT OCT. 30 (OCT. 29 IN U.S.) AND THAT HE
WAS PREPARED TO FIGHT ON THE DATE INDICATED "IF I WANT
THE MONEY."

2. JOHNSON BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF FOREMAN'S
SHARP RETORT TO CHICAGO SUN-TIMES JACK GRIFFIN
(PARA 4 REFTEL) WHEN HE CALLED GRIFFIN TO FIGHT
AT THAT MOMENT AND THEN TOLD HIM TO "SHUT UP."
FOREMAN SAID THAT HE "WAS ONLY KIDDING AROUND."

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3. VINOCUR AND APPARENTLY GRIFFIN HAD ALREADY
FILED AND IT REMAINS DOUBTFUL THAT THE DAMAGE CAN
BE UNDONE. FORMAN SCHEDULED SEPT. 26 NOON
MEETING WITH GRIFFIN TO ALLEGEDLY "TELL HIM I'M
SORRY AND THAT I WAS JUST KIDDING AROUND."

4. CONTRACT WAS APPARENTLY SIGNED WELL BEFORE
FOREMAN SEPT. 25 PRESS CONFERENCE AND FORMAN'S
TACTLESS REMARKS AND MISLEADING RESPONSES TO
QUESTIONS SERVED HIM NO PURPOSE AND ONLY TARNISHED
WHAT HAD, UNTIL NOW, BEEN A FAVORABLE PUBLIC IMAGE.
HINTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS
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Draft Date: 27 SEP 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
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To: STATE
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